

T H E
G O O D E F F E C T S,
O F
SUNDAY SCHOOLS,

And other Charitable Institutions of this Nature,
conducted by good Masters or Mistresses,
morally and politically considered ;

With a P L A N,

For the permanent Establishment of this excellent Charity,
in the Vicinity of WREXHAM.

Most respectfully addressed,

To the Masters and Agents of the Lead, Iron, and Coal
Works, and the Public at large, of this

Respectable Town and Neighbourhood.

*Art thou dejected? is thy mind o'ercast?
Amid her fair Ones, thou the fairest chuse
To chase thy Gloom.---Go, fix some weighty Truth,
Chain down some Passion; do some gen'rous good,
Teach Ignorance to see, or Grief to smile;
Or with warm Heart, and Confidence divine
Spring up, and lay strong hold on Him who made
Thee,-----*

*Thy Gloom is scatter'd, sprightly spirits flow;
Though wither'd is the Vine, and Harp unstrung.*

NIGHT THOUGHTS.

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WREXHAM: PRINTED BY R. MARSH;

For the Sunday-school Society:

A N D,

To be had of Mr. FERNAL, Secretary for the Institution, at the Printer's hereof,
of Mr. DAVID PARRY, in Ruabon, and at Mr. TAYLOR'S Music-shop,
in Chester.



Train up a Child in the Way that he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it. SOLOMON.

Suffer little Children to come unto me, and forbid them not. SALVATOR MUNDI. MARK, x. iv.

*Children like tender Oziers take the Bow,
And, as they first are fashion'd always grow. POET.*

The most considerable of all things human, is to inform the Soul concerning good and ill. PYTHAGORAS.

We are born feeble ; we want strength ; we are born divested of every thing ; we want understanding. Every thing which we do not possess at our Birth, and which we stand in need of when grown up, we receive from Education.

ROUSSEAU'S Thoughts on Education.



GOOD EFFECTS,

O F

SUNDAY SCHOOLS, &c.

MORAL EFFECT.

THEY will prevent much profanation of the Lord's Day, by confining the Children a considerable Part thereof in School.

Those will receive some little Education, who otherwise might have none, any little is better than none at all, the savage Indians have the same Capacity as we have, but for want of Education are still savage, and some Nations of them so little above the Brutes, they can feed on human Flesh.

It is not necessary that all Children should be made great Scholars, there must be Mechanics as well as Philosophers, and Labourers in their place are as useful as Lords; but it is absolutely necessary, that all the infant Race should be instructed, how to refuse the Evil and
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chuse the Good, and directed how they may be happy and useful, in whatever situation Divine Providence may place them in this World. Sunday Schools are most excellently calculated for this purpose, for this purpose, with God's blessing, they are quite sufficient. Thus much of Education may teach them to know their Creator and Redeemer, may make them good to their Parents, obedient to their Masters, civil to their Neighbours, contented and useful Members of the community.

When Children are thus instructed, they likewise become morally useful to those Parents, who may have never been blessed with the means of Knowledge, they can then tell them the Folly and great Evil of Swearing, Drinking to excess, breaking the Sabbath and other Vices ; and, how striking must these little Admonitions be, from the mouths of Babes and Sucklings !

By a regular attendance at these Schools, poor Children may learn to read the Holy Bible and other good Books, which will shew them the Path of Life, and also enable them, by the grace of God, to become like attending Angels, about the Beds of their sick and dying Parents and Friends, to read the glad Tidings of the Gospel dispensation, to those, who by reason of their own Incapacity, distance from any place of Worship, Age or Infirmary are almost destitute of this important Assistance.

POLITICAL

P O L I T I C A L V I E W.

Children attending on these Schools will have less time to wander about the Country, to do mischief in the Fields or Gardens of their neighbours, this will prevent many Quarrels with their Parents, and the disagreeable consequences.

They will be less liable to Accidents, which frequently happen to Children, playing on the Lord's Day.

They will not have so much opportunity of contracting idle Habits and bad Acquaintances, which, by numberless confessions of Malefactors about to die, was the first beginning of that bad Life, that brought them to the Gallows.

As wickedness tends to Poverty, and Poverty increaseth the *Poors-leys*, virtue and industry the Fruits of a Christian Education will greatly lessen this Burden.

Another most happy and certain Consequence will be, the lessening in some degree at least, the frightful number of Thieves, House-breakers, Highway Robbers, Defrauders, Violators of Justice, Disturbers of the public Peace, and Murderers, which crowd our Goals and depopulate our Country.

'Twill also extend its happy influence beyond *our* Neighbourhood, 'twill make our Armies more respectable, our Navies more formidable, and our extensive Dominions, more

like what they should be, who are enlightened by Christianity and reformed from Popery, a Pattern to the whole World.

In addition, and as some Confirmation of what has been already observed, we may add the following Extracts from a Pamphlet recently published in London, by a most respectable Society, whose sole Object is the encouragement and extension of these Schools; the present President is the Right Honourable JAMES, Earl of *Salisbury*.

“ It is a matter of congratulation to the present Age, that the mutual Animosities which have in former Times disunited the Professors of the Christian Faith, have now given way to more liberal construction of each others Motives; and while every man enjoys with Freedom the rights of private Judgment, all denominations can concur in promoting the common Interests; and, by cherishing genuine Christian Principles in the minds of Children, prevent the corruption of Morals, and advance the Peace and Felicity of our Country. ”

Another Extract, “ Whilst on the one hand, these Schools extend religious Knowledge among the Ignorant, on the other, they instil into the lower classes of the Community the principles of Industry, Decency, Sobriety, and that Subordination, which are perfectly consistent with true Liberty, and the pride of industrious Independance.

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" In this Light, they are equally interesting to the Politician, to the real Patriot, to the religious and moral Man ; and may I be permitted to add, that the Harmony they have so much contributed to introduce, among the different denominations of Protestants in this Kingdom, is not the least service they have rendered to the State.

" The two Countries in Europe, in which, in proportion to their Extent and Population, the number of Executions is, I believe, the least considerable, and which are inferior to none in Decency and good Order, are *Scotland* and *Switzerland* ; in both those Countries, the establishment of Schools in every Place, and sufficient for the Education of all the lower order of Inhabitants, has not been thought unworthy the attention of their respective Governments. "

William Morton Pitt, Esq.

The following is an Extract from a Letter, dated

Daventry, August 27th. 1787,

To the Rev. Mr. *Probert.*

" This happy Institution did not confine the Benefits to the Children, but was an inducement to those Parents to attend divine Service, who had never, or very seldom attended before ; in proof of which, the Congregation was so much increased, as to make it necessary to build a Gallery round the Church this Summer. "

Another

Another Letter from Mr. BINGHAM, of *Whitchurch*, giving an account of the Death of a poor dissolute Boy, who was instructed and happily reformed in one of these Schools, has the following remarkable Sentence, which the Boy expressed with his dying Breath; "Had it not been for them and you" said he, "I should have perished in my Ignorance."

This is but a Sample; — There are great numbers of other Letters, filled with every grateful Acknowledgment, to the London Society, and containing such numerous Certificates, of the Improvement and Reformation of the most dissolute Children, and even Villages and Hamlets, whose profligacy had ever withstood all other species of Instruction, as will at once astonish and delight the Reader.

Here then is a moral and political Advantage, which extends its Blessings beyond the limits of mortality into future Happiness, and purchased with the least Expence, a few Shillings a Year generally subscribed, will educate all the poor Children in the Country.

"Delightful Task, to rear the tender Thought

"And teach the young Idea how to shoot;"

Our lib'ral Hands shall ease the Pauper's cry,

And give their mental wants a kind supply;

To feed the Body and neglect the Mind,

'Tis Charity's worst half, 'tis half unkind.

Perhaps

Perhaps there are not greater Objects, which present their mental indigence to the tender-hearted Christian, than the poor Children in our Neighbourhood of *Rhos, Minera, Harwood, &c.* In order to alleviate this great Evil, as much as possible; the high Sheriff, Justices of the Peace and other respectable Gentlemen in this Neighbourhood, have most humanely offered their liberal Assistance, to establish little Seminaries for Christian Education, amongst these People, and the Masters of the Mine-works and Collieries are respectfully invited, to render that important Influence which is happily in their Power, to further this benevolent Design; and there can be no doubt, but every charitably disposed Person in Town and Country, will rejoice in the opportunity of contributing a Mite at least, to the general Good.

For the Establishment of this Charity, the following Plan is submitted to the Public at large.

P L A N.

It appears, by a Pamphlet published in London, A. D. 1775, a farther account of the circulating Welsh Charity Schools, under the particular Patronage of Mrs. BEAN, of *Laugharne*, Carmarthenshire, assisted by the Rev. Dr. STONEHOUSE, of *Bristol*, THOMAS JONES, Esq. of the *Exchequer*, and other Reverend and respectable Gentlemen. That in the short Space of about 39 Years, the almost incredible

Number of 297121 poor Children received a Christian Education; and it is not a little surprising, that out of this great Number, there were only 144 educated in this large County. We are also informed, that circulating Charity Schools, on a similar Plan, have been lately established in Merionethshire, by the Rev. Mr. CHARLES, and prosper exceedingly. As the County for which these Schools are designed, is in almost, if not all respects similar to those above-mentioned, it will undoubtedly be best for us to proceed on the same successful Plan. The Children are so scattered on these Mountains, and the Roads so exceedingly bad, and even dangerous in the Winter time, that a Sunday School *only*, is not likely to have the desired Effect, nor so great a number of Children educated with so small an expence, and from Experiments recently made, this Idea seems to be confirmed.

If this Plan be judged eligible, the following Particulars may be included.

1. That Christians of every denomination, being Members of the Church of England, and Protestant Dissenters, be cordially united, as in the Metropolis and other great Cities, to further this general and public Good. Vice and Irreligion is the greatest Enemy to our Country, and its progress more to be dreaded, than the whole Force of Europe engaged against us; let us therefore associate our Prayers and

Education and Endeavours against the common Evil, which as much
 of this endangers the safety of Britain, as it has totally ruined
 the large and the greatest Nations of the World, the favoured Jewish
 Charity Empire not excepted.

2. That the management and direction of these Schools,
 be vested in a Committee, chosen annually from amongst
 the Governors, and to consist of Twelve Persons.

3. That every annual Subscriber of *half a Guinea* be a
 Governor, and have a right to vote at the ordinary or
 extraordinary general Meetings of the Society. And that
 all Benefactions, however small, be gratefully accepted.

4. That a Donation of *Five Guineas* or upwards at one
 Time, shall constitute the Donor, a Governor for Life.

5. That the Committee do meet, to conduct the Business
 of this Society, for the first half Year, the second Thurs-
 day in every Month; the Meeting to be held at the *Eagles*,
 in WREXHAM, at Eleven o'Clock in the Morning, to com-
 mence on Thursday, November 12th. 1789.

6. That the first Objects of the Society be, the Children
 and others belonging to the Lead, Coal, Furnace and other
 Businesses, residing at *Rhos-llanerchrygog*, *Minera*, the *Fur-*
nace, and *Harwood*, and as the Fund increases, to extend
 these Schools in proportion, to such other Places, as the
 Governors may see necessary.

That

7. That the Country, including these Places, be divided into Districts, and two respectable persons, Masters or Agents of the different Works, be requested to act as Stewards for each District.

8. That a Secretary and two Stewards be annually appointed, who shall jointly act as Treasurers to the Society, and reside at WREXHAM.

9. That the Secretary shall pay no Cash on account of this Charity, without the consent of both Stewards, for the time being, by an Order in writing, and also that he produce his Accounts every month to the Committee.

10. That an account of the Receipts and Disbursements, with other reports respecting the progress of this Charity, be printed once a Year, for the inspection of the Governors.

11. That in every place where these Schools may be established, the Reverend Clergy of the Established Church, Protestant Dissenting Ministers, and other respectable Persons in the Neighbourhood, be requested to visit them as frequent as possible, receive Subscriptions, correspond with the Society, and suggest any improvements in the Plan they may think necessary, and, that the Ministers be also requested to Catechise them once a Quarter, in their respective Churches or Chapels.

12. That

12. That all the Scholars shall attend some place of public Worship, *such as their Parents may respectively approve*, every Sunday, if the distance be not such, and the Roads or Weather so bad, as to render it impracticable; when they must, as at other times, be instructed and catechised in their different Schools.

13. That as it appears, from an experiment lately made on one of these Mountains, about 50 out of 100 Children can speak little or no English, such should be instructed to read in their native Language, unless their Parents particularly object to it.

14. That no Children be admitted under *Five Years* of Age, and that none be refused because of riper Age, but be rather preferred.

15. That every Boy or Girl employed in the Lead, Iron or Coal-works, shall have the preference as to Admission.

16. That nothing whatever be taught in the Sunday Schools, but what is suited immediately to the design of the Sabbath-day.

17. That a Master or Masters be appointed, who are qualified to teach both the Welsh and English Languages, who are truly religious Men, who, by their Example and Conduct, will give greater effect to their Instructions, and will also submit to such Rules as the Governors may appoint, for the good management of the said Schools.

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18. That

18. That one of these, unless the Fund will admit of more, be stationed for Six Months only, according to Mrs. BEVAN'S Plan, in any part of the Neighbourhood which will be most convenient, and keep a constant Week-day School, for such Children as may be recommended, afterwards to remove to another part, and so return in Rotation.

19. That the said Master or Masters be allowed such annual Salary, as the Committee may deem sufficient, and be the principal Teachers of the Sunday Schools, in the District they reside.

20. That such Children or others, so instructed in the Week-day School, be obliged to attend the Sunday Catechising and public Worship, on pain of Expulsion.

21. That necessary Books be purchased wholesale at the cheapest rates, containing the easiest Lessons for Reading and Spelling, and the principals of the Christian Religion in faith and practice, with some other Tracts, that blend a degree of innocent Amusement with the Rules of moral and social Duty.

22. That to encourage such Parents who may neglect to oblige any unwilling Children to attend the School; small pecuniary or other Presents, such as Books or Cloaths, be given to such Children as may appear the most deserving, and for a further Excitement, which by experience has been found to excel all others; that the Children be taught to sing little Psalms and Hymns, suited to their Capacities, at their coming in and going out of School.

23. That if such convenient Places can be had, in order to prevent the expences of Rent as much as possible; 100 Children be educated or catechised in one School on the Lord's Day.

24. That 3 Teachers, have the care of 34 Children each, and that the senior Scholars be employed to assist the younger ones, which will add much to their own improvement, as well as excite their attendance.

25. That the Sunday Teachers, that are Masters, be allowed 1s. 6d. each, and the Mistresses 1s. for the Day, and their principal Scholar Assistant 6d.

26. That the Teachers also be provided with Books and give an exact account to the Visitor, of the attendance or non-attendance of the Scholars, also to report their Behaviour, and that if after repeated admonitions and kind reproofs, any shall continue to be disorderly; the Visitors shall acquaint the Committee, for the time being, who will be empowered to expel them, and also if need be, to dismiss the Masters or Mistresses.

27. That Rules be formed for the direction of the Masters, Mistresses and Scholars, put up in each School, and those for the latter, read aloud every Week.

28. That the Teachers shall take care, the Scholars come clean to their respective Schools, and instruct them, that want of good Cloathing, is no excuse for non-attendance at

at School or public Worship, and also, that the School be divided into two Parts, one for the Boys and the other for the Girls, and that they be catechised in the School, once every Fortnight at least.

29. That the Schools be made as Comfortable as will be expedient for the accommodation of the Children, and also, that all Church and Chapel-wardens be requested, to make convenient fittings for the poor Children, in the Churches or Chapels, that the irksomeness of their Situation, may not discourage their attendance on public Worship, or discommode the regular Congregation.

30. That six Months good Behaviour in and out of these Schools, might be considered as a recommendation to Service, and it would be very desirous that the Society and Public at large, where they can with propriety, would give such Scholars the preference, when they take Servants or Apprentices.

31. That the Subscribers to the Sunday Schools lately established in WREXHAM, be requested to join this Association, to assist in enlarging and improving the said Schools, most of which at present, seem to be in a poor and declining state.

32. That once a Year, in the Months of *May* or *June*, all the Scholars from the different Schools that are able, and with consent of their Parents, come two and two in
order

order with the different Teachers with them, to WREXHAM Church, and a Charity Sermon be preached there for the Occasion, and that the best Singers be selected from amongst the Children, to sing the Hundredth Psalm with the Organ. After which, some little refreshment be given them in the Town-hall, with some little Presents for the most deserving ; the Expence to be defrayed from the Collection in Church, and the Surplus added to the Fund. This will much enliven and increase the Charity.

“ N. B. It may be proper to observe, that an Association of all the principal Gentlemen, Clergy, and other protestant Ministers, who favour Sunday Schools in this particular Neighbourhood or District, as a Committee, for the purpose of assisting with their Advice, Influence, &c. will generally for very obvious Reasons, be found highly beneficial to this Establishment.

By such an Association, the Diligence of some may stimulate the lesser Activity of others, and the Poverty of some be assisted by the Bounty of their more affluent Neighbours, and it provides Instruction for all the poor Children in the Country, affording a greater Security for the permanence of the Plan, and its being well conducted. Sunday Schools are found in most Counties in this Kingdom; but being *unconnected*, the mode of conducting them is

less likely to be uniform, and their duration more precarious, depending frequently on the continuance of the Attention of one or two Persons, whose Departure, bad Health, or Death may cause the interruption or total Decay of these Schools. ”

CALCULATION OF EXPENCES.

About Twelve Months experience will be necessary in this particular part of the Country, in order to lay before the Public an *exact* Statement of these Expences; but, the following Calculation is, I think, tolerably near: It supposes that all the Teachers may be hired, but we may hope to meet with some liberal-minded Persons, who will freely devote their Time and Labour, after the Example of our Blessed Lord, in doing good on this Holy Day, this is the case in several parts of the Kingdom, and reduces this small expence to less than one half.

SUNDAY SCHOOL.

100 Scholars will require 3 Teachers, 2 Men

and 1 Woman; the Men to have 1s. 6d.

each, the Women, 1s. per Week, ———

Rent, if necessary, Books, Presents, and

Fires, about ———

£. s. d.

10 8 0

5 0 0

Per Annum, £. 15 8 0

—————
This

This may be supported by 30 Subscribers at 10s. 6d. each, or 15 at 1l. 1s. od. per Annum, who will have the Satisfaction and Happiness to reflect, after the course of 10 Years, they have assisted in giving a Christian Education, to about 2000 of their fellow Creatures.

CIRCULATING WEEK-DAY SCHOOL.

The success of this Design, next to the blessing of Almighty God, will depend on the choice of Teachers and the attention of Visitors. The advantage of this School will be, that one good Master may instruct as great a number of Children in the same time, and with about the same Expence as would engage six Masters in a Sunday School ; and if the Time taken up, in the course of the circulation of his School, was not a material object, he might instruct all the Children in the Country ; and *one* proper Teacher will be much easier procured than half a dozen. If we are rightly informed, a fit Person to undertake this Business may be immediately hired for the yearly Salary of 15l. as learning to *read only*, together with moral and religious Instruction, will be the business of this Charity ; he may, by residing six Months in any particular part of the Country, instruct about 100 Children, in the course of the Year 200, and as the Week-day Scholars will be engaged entirely on the Lord's Day, in attending public Worship, Catechising, &c. There will be no necessity for any other
Teacher

Teacher or Assistant in this district, than the said Master. In this yearly Salary will be included, every thing but Books and Presents, which according to the present appearance, of the Willingness of several Parents, to give their Children Books, will be but very trifling. Some other small Expences will necessarily occur, in Books of Accounts for the Secretary and Master, Printing for the Society, &c.

Report of one of these Sunday Schools ;

Instituted about eight Weeks since, on HARWOOD Mountains, and included in the present P L A N.

The School-room is very commodious and free of Rent, by favour of Mr. D. F. JONES, Attorney, about 100 Children and young Persons generally attend, several of whom, in this short space of Time have learned their Letters and begun to read. There is also a visible change in their Language and Manners, which is witnessed not only in their behaviour at School, but also by their Parents and Neighbours, many of whom have expressed their thanks for this Charity, in the most grateful and affectionate Terms.

So that these rude Hills which have long echoed the prophanest Language, now begin to wear the more pleasing Aspect of a Christian Country, and, if the fostering hand of *instructive* Charity will but continue its beneficence, we may hope to see this Wilderness become a fruitful Place, and many worthy members of the Christian Church and the Community at large, spring from the barren Soil.

Rescu'd from worse than Poverty or Pain,
The rugged Hill shall hail the smiling Plain,
A thousand Tongues lisping their grateful Lays,
Whilst Angels listen and extend the Praise.

WREXHAM, November 22d. 1789.

J. FERNAL.

A D V E R T I S E M E N T.

Subscriptions will be immediately received at the following Places.

At the Rev. SAMUEL STRONG's, *Marchwiel* ; Mr. DAVID PARRY's, *Ruabon* ; Mr. D. F. JONES's, Attorney, *Chester or Cumma* ; Mr. WOOLLAM's, Mr. JONES's, Ironmonger, Mr. FERNAL's, Watchmaker, and at Mr. MARSH's, Printer, in *Wrexham*.



